(SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Simulated nuclear exercise conducted by China

246. SHRI B. SATYANARAYAN REDDY: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the Chinese Navy staged a simulated nuclear exercise last month in Eastern China to test combat readiness; and

(b) if so, what are the details of these exercises and its impact on the defence and security of India and on other Eastern countries of the region?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH): (a) Government have seen press reports to this effect.

(b) The exercise reportedly involved the study of the characteristics and rules of fighting a war under nuclear-conditions.

Government keep under constant review all developments having a bearing on India's security. So, surely do other Governments on security-related matters of interest to them.

Vacancies in High Courts

247. SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of appointments of judges made to different High Courts recently; and

(b) what is the sanctioned strength and the number of vacancies existing in different High Courts at present?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI HANS RAJ BHARDWAJ): (a) Since 1-1-88, till date, 18 fresh appointments of Judges have been made in various High Courts of the country as indicated in the attached Statement (*See* below).

(b) The attached Statement shows the sanctioned strength, Judges in position and vacancies existing in various High Courts of the country as on 1-7-88. (*See* Appendis CXLVII, Annexnre No. 9)

Statement

S.No.	High Court	No. of fresh appointments made since 1-1-1988
1	Allahabad	1
2	Calcutta	3
3	Delhi	1
4	Gauhati	1
5	Karnataka	2
6	Madhya Pradesh	2
7	Orissa	1
8	Punjab & Haryana	7
	TOTAL	18